



Meeting Date: June 23, 2021

Staff Contact: Rick Shean, Water Rights Program Manager

TITLE: R-21-14- 2021 Agreement between the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation and the Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority for Lease of San Juan-Chama Water

ACTION: Recommend Approval

SUMMARY:

The Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority (Water Authority) is partnering with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) to support river operations in the Albuquerque reach of the Rio Grande and potentially begin to fill an environmental conservation pool in Abiquiu. Like 2020, the water situation in 2021 has been a difficult challenge with a very low spring runoff. This water would be used to support river operations to minimize the impacts of river drying on endangered species, such as the silvery minnow.

This resolution provides for a one-time lease of 5,000-acre feet at \$100 per acre-foot for a total of \$500,000. The San Juan-Chama water will be used to supplement the overall water supplies in the Middle Rio Grande and provide for the USBR's obligation under the current Biological Opinion. The agreement is consistent with policies E.4, F.3, J.1 and J.5 of the Water Authority's Water 2120 Plan. The funding from this agreement should be placed in the Water 2120 Decade Plan activity for implementing the 100-year water plan.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The Water Authority will be paid \$100 per acre-foot for the San Juan-Chama water delivered from Abiquiu Reservoir for a total amount, if fully used, of \$500,000. The funding should be set aside and placed into the Decade Plan activity for the implementation of Water 2120.

[+Bracketed/Underscored Material+] - New
[-Bracketed/Strikethrough Material-] - Deletion

1 The Water Authority Board authorizes the Executive Director to negotiate and
2 execute a lease contract with the Bureau of Reclamation for up to 5,000 acre-feet of San
3 Juan Chama water at the rate of \$100 per acre-foot for the purposes described above.
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